

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method comprising:
  - 2 obtaining control symbols from a first wireless signal, the control symbols including pilot symbols and non-pilot symbols; and
  - 4 using both the pilot symbols and the non-pilot symbols for frequency tracking of the first wireless signal.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein using both the pilot symbols and the
  - 2 non-pilot symbols for frequency tracking comprises generating soft decisions for the non-pilot symbols and using the pilot symbols and the soft decisions for frequency
  - 4 tracking of the first wireless signal.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein generating soft decisions for the non-pilot
  - 2 symbols comprises weighting each non-pilot symbol.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the soft decisions comprise non-pilot
  - 2 symbols multiplied by a weight factor.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein using the pilot symbols and the soft
  - 2 decisions for frequency tracking includes calculating a cross-product to generate a residual frequency error estimate.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein calculating the cross-product comprises
  - 2 cross-multiplying one of the pilot symbols with a complex conjugate of one of the soft decisions.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein calculating the cross-product comprises
  - 2 cross-multiplying one of the soft decisions with a complex conjugate of one of the pilot symbols.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein calculating the cross-product comprises  
2 cross-multiplying a first set of the pilot symbols and soft decisions with a complex  
conjugate of a second set of the pilot symbols and soft decisions.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first set and the second set include at  
2 least one common symbol.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the common symbol is a first symbol in the  
2 first set and a last symbol in the second set.
11. The method of claim 1, further comprising adjusting frequency of the first  
2 wireless signal in response to the frequency tracking.
12. The method of claim 2, wherein the soft decisions include a decision as to  
2 whether the symbol is a 1 or a -1 and a confidence level of the decision as to  
whether the symbol is a 1 or a -1.
13. The method of claim 2, wherein generating the soft decision includes  
2 applying a hyperbolic tangent function to calculate the soft decision.
14. The method of claim 2, wherein generating the soft decision includes  
2 applying an approximation of a hyperbolic tangent function to calculate the soft  
decision.
15. The method of claim 2, wherein generating the soft decision includes using a  
2 sign function to calculate a decision as to whether the non-pilot symbol is a 1 or a -1.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the first wireless signal is a spread spectrum  
2 CDMA signal.

17. The method of claim 3, wherein weighing each non-pilot symbol includes  
2 weighing each non-pilot symbol according to strength of the first wireless signal.
18. The method of claim 3, wherein weighing each non-pilot symbol includes  
2 weighing each non-pilot symbol according to a signal-to-noise-plus interference ratio  
associated with the first wireless signal.
19. The method of claim 5, further comprising calculating cross-products to  
2 calculate residual frequency error estimates and accumulating the cross-products to  
calculate an estimated frequency error of the first wireless signal.
20. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-pilot symbols include transport  
2 format combination indicators, transmit power control indicators and feedback  
indicators.
21. A method comprising:  
2 obtaining control symbols from a first wireless signal, the control symbols  
including pilot symbols and non-pilot symbols;  
4 assigning a weight factor to each non-pilot symbol; and  
using the pilot symbols and weighted non-pilot symbols for frequency  
6 tracking of the first wireless signal.
22. A computer-readable medium carrying program code that when executed:  
2 obtains control symbols from a first wireless signal, the control symbols  
including pilot symbols and non-pilot symbols; and  
4 uses the pilot symbols and the non-pilot symbols for frequency tracking of  
the first wireless signal.
23. An apparatus comprising:  
2 a rotator that adjusts signal frequency of a signal; and

4 a feedback loop to the rotator that provides an estimate of a frequency error  
associated with the signal, wherein the feedback loop generates the estimate of the  
frequency error using pilot and non-pilot symbols.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:  
2 a transmitter/receiver that receives and conditions the signal before sending  
the signal to the rotator;  
4 a demodulator that demodulates the signal after the rotator has adjusted signal  
frequency of the signal;  
6 a symbol generator that obtains the pilot and non-pilot symbols; and  
a digital signal processor that processes the pilot and non-pilot symbols.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the feedback loop includes a frequency  
2 discriminator and an accumulator, wherein the frequency discriminator calculates  
residual frequency error estimates using the pilot and non-pilot symbols and sends  
4 the residual frequency error estimates to the accumulator to generate the estimate of  
the frequency error.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the feedback loop includes a soft decision  
2 generator that generates soft decisions for the non-pilot symbols, wherein the  
frequency discriminator calculates residual frequency error estimates using the pilot  
4 symbols and the soft decisions.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the soft decision generator includes a  
2 hyperbolic tangent unit that generates the soft decisions.

28. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the frequency discriminator includes a  
2 cross-product generator to estimate residual frequency errors.

2 29. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the apparatus forms part of a RAKE  
receiver, the apparatus further comprising:

4 a number of rotators that adjust signal frequency of a number of signals  
tracked by a number of fingers; and

6 a number of feedback loops to the number of rotators that provide estimates  
of frequency errors associated with the signals, wherein the feedback loops generate  
8 the estimates of the frequency errors using pilot and non-pilot symbols.

30. An apparatus comprising:

2 an antenna;

4 a transmitter/receiver coupled to the antenna that receives a signal and  
conditions the signal;

6 a rotator coupled to the transmitter/receiver that adjusts frequency of the  
signal;

8 a demodulator coupled to the rotator that demodulates the signal;

10 a symbol generator coupled to the demodulator that obtains control symbols  
from the demodulated signal, the control symbols including pilot and non-pilot  
symbols;

12 a soft decision generator coupled to the symbol generator that generates soft  
decisions for the non-pilot symbols;

14 a frequency discriminator coupled to the soft decision generator that  
calculates residual frequency error estimates using the pilot symbols and the soft  
decisions; and

16 an accumulator coupled to the frequency discriminator and the rotator that  
accumulates an error estimate associated with the signal, wherein the rotator adjusts  
18 frequency of the signal based on the error estimate associated with the signal.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the apparatus forms part of a RAKE  
2 receiver, the apparatus further comprising:

4 a number of fingers that track a number of signals, wherein each finger

includes a rotator, a demodulator coupled to the rotator, a symbol generator coupled

to the demodulator, a soft decision generator coupled to the symbols generator, a  
6 frequency discriminator coupled to the soft decision generator, and an accumulator  
coupled to the frequency discriminator and the rotator.

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